

EXHIBIT A

[0036] Step 58, [he] the fourth step, comprises adding an outer clear film coat over the patterned coat. The film coat is added above the patterned coat and is loosely placed on the lower mold. Step 60, the fifth step, indicates that the upper mold is then provided or added to the lower mold. The upper mold includes a ram. The upper mold also secures the film coat or layer to the lower mold. The female mold is, of course, the lower mold, as stated above. The ram is essentially a movable male mold that conforms to the configuration of the lower, female mold and to the layers or coats of the liner, as will be apparent from further discussion, below.

[0040] Figure 4 is a view in partial section schematically representing an alternate embodiment of method 50 of Fig. 3, and comprising a view in partial section through a mold apparatus 70. The mold apparatus 70 includes a lower mold 72 and an upper mold 74. The first few steps involved with the apparatus 70 are essentially the same as the steps 52 through 58 discussed above. The final steps then deviate from the steps of method 50.

[0041] Within the lower mold 72 is a first, preferably foam[,] coat or layer 80, which is a bottom or base layer. The layer 80 includes a release agent which is sprayed in the mold 72 prior to the spraying of the bottom or base coat or layer 80.

[0042] After the coat 80 is cured, a decorative, patterned[,] coat or layer 82 is sprayed on the coat or layer 80. The decorative layer 82 is then cured.

[0044] If radiant heat from the heater 78 is used to heat the film layer or coat 84, the pressurized air through the nozzle 76 need not be heated. If heated air is introduced to stretch the clear film layer 84, then there is no need for the radiant heater 78. Typically, the air pressure, heated or ambient air, is about thirty psig (pounds per square inch gage).

[0053] A liner for a cargo area of a vehicle, such as a car, truck, trailer, or the like, includes at least three layers, a base layer, an intermediate patterned layer, and a clear or transparent top layer so that the patterned layer may be viewed. The patterned layer may be monochromatic, where only a single color is used, or it may be polychromatic, where several colors are used. The patterned layer may be a color scape, a design or logo, a message, or any decorative item[, etc]. Three embodiments of methods for making a liner are disclosed. The methods include the use of a female mold, a male mold, or a combination of male and female molds where the male mold is a ram applying pressure and heat to the several layers on the female mold.

21. A [liner for the cargo area of] bedliner for a vehicle comprising in combination:

a first base layer;

a patterned second layer secured to the first base layer; and

a clear third layer [on] secured to the patterned layer for permitting the patterned layer to be viewed.